

THE SALT LAKE HERALD

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THE SPECIAL GRAND JURY.

DISTRICT JUDGES Hall, Morse and Stewart are to be commended for calling a special grand jury. For some time it has been evident that such a jury could find a good field for investigation, not only in a few special cases which have arisen, but in the general administration of public affairs regarding which citizens have a right to accurate knowledge.

Not only will the work of such a body be of benefit to the community at large, but it ought to be welcomed by the individuals who have been the subject of rumor, possibly of unjust accusation. It is true that persons and public bodies may be injured quite as much by unfounded rumor as by unjust charges made openly; and in case of rumor there is no better way to ascertain the truth than by the investigation of men charged with that duty by the courts.

The field of work for this grand jury will be practically unlimited and the men chosen for the jury should be of a character and standing to assure the public that their findings, whether of acquittal or accusation, are borne out by the facts.

The city and county government, public institutions of every sort, the administration of the law in all its branches, and all subjects bearing on the welfare of the people, ought to be investigated and reported upon fully. Such a report will do much to clear the air and it should result in great good for the community.

THE FIRST TOUCH OF SPRING.

THERE IS A TOUCH of spring in the air. Before we know it the green will be creeping up the mountain sides. The merry chirp of the robin is heard in the land and nature is preparing to awaken from her winter's rest. The young man's fancy is lightly turning to thoughts of figuring out a method of purchasing some new lavender trousers, along with the other fixings that are associated in the mind of the youth with the gentle springtime.

Such of the vacant lots as are drying up are now under the alert eye of the small boy. He has put away his sled and his skates. While their season lasted he enjoyed them, if he was a healthy-minded small boy, but he is going to enjoy his spring treasures just as much. Soon the hum of his top will make sweet music for him, the festive game of marbles will delight him and the glorious game of baseball will be a source of never failing joy.

Of course, we realize that these reflections on spring will seem to some people rather premature. Two or three days of mild weather do not make a springtime any more than two or three swallows make a bath. It is entirely possible that when these words appear in print it will be snowing. It is almost certain that a day or two later, at most, we'll be worrying ourselves sick because the furnace doesn't furnish enough heat to keep the baby from catching cold.

Then, too, the gentle springtime furnishes a great many opportunities for catching cold. We go out without an overcoat or without overshoes and the first thing we know we are talking through our noses and wishing it would either get warm or something. Dazed such weather, anyway. But we'll have to stand it, just the same. Oh, yes, spring has its drawbacks as well as its compensations. But it has more of the latter than the former.

A FAR-REACHING COURT DECISION.

THE RECENT STREET RAILWAY decision of the United States court of appeals, sitting in St. Louis, is of much more than ordinary interest because it purports to define the rights of pedestrians and drivers of vehicles as against the rights of motormen. In this case the plaintiff was the driver of a vehicle which was wrecked while being drawn on a street car track ahead of a car. The defense claimed that the plaintiff was guilty of contributory negligence, but the court held otherwise and affirmed the judgment for damages awarded by the trial tribunal.

The decision is very sweeping. The court holds that vehicles have a right to use the street railway tracks when the thoroughfares are muddy or in such condition as to render locomotion difficult, and that motormen have no right to assume that they are entitled to a clear track at all times. The motorman who smashed the vehicle in this instance was guilty of negligence when he failed to reduce the speed of his car so as to avoid a collision.

Most of the comments on the decision have been favorable, but there is another side to it. Drivers are entitled to some rights. Of that there can be no question, but the public which uses the street cars is also entitled to some rights. Under this decision it will be possible for the driver of a loaded coal wagon, for instance, to block a dozen street cars. He may use the tracks, which are laid down at the expense of the company, for his own convenience, regardless of the delay he is causing to dozens of people anxious to get to their work or to get home.

This point is certainly worth considering. The court might reasonably have placed some limit on the use of street car tracks by vehicles. It is true that motormen should use due diligence. They must not deliberately collide with vehicles, but if they run at a reasonable rate of speed and give due warning of their approach, as most of them do, it is plainly the duty of the driver to get off the track, even if by so doing he is obliged to drive for a short distance through the mud.

Another point is that the way is here opened for owners of vehicles to sell their possessions to street railway companies through the simple medium of collisions. The dishonest man who wants to get rid of a rattletrap conveyance may do so by deliberately holding the track until the car pushes it out of the way. Under the St. Louis decision, if it is upheld by the supreme court of the United States, the company will have no alternative. It must pay damages.

The opinion is not altogether in the interest of the public, therefore, for the public is very often inconvenienced by the monopolization of street car tracks by drivers. Anything tending to encourage the practice will not benefit the public.

IS CHRISTIANITY WORTH WHILE?

THE HERALD has received from the Brooklyn Philosophical association a copy of a pamphlet entitled, "Facts Worth Knowing." A study of the pamphlet shows that it is an attack on religion, not only the Christian religion, but all religions. In a series of articles by different authors, so-called arguments to prove that religions are all myths and their followers deluded idiots are presented.

For the sake of the argument let us admit that the Bible is not an inspired work; let us agree with the Brooklyn infidels that Jesus Christ was a myth, that there is no God, no devil, no reward, no punishment beyond the grave; let us admit that death ends all and still there is ample justification for the Christian religion. We are told that since the founding of the Christian religion hundreds of bloody Christian wars have been waged; that in the name of religion thousands of innocent victims have been tortured.

This tale is as old as infidelity; it has been used as an argument against Christianity ever since the first unbeliever raised his voice against the Christian propaganda. And it is true. To deny a fact so patent would be to display a most astounding ignorance. But suppose it is true? Suppose the half of the story has never been told? Were there not abuses committed before there were Christians? Were not people crucified and tortured and burned at the stake before the birth of Christ?

And granting that unspeakable crimes have been committed in the name of Christianity, can any say with truth that the world has not been better for it? What nations of the world are recognized today as the leading nations of the world, as the world powers? Are they Turkey, China, Morocco, the black hordes of Africa? No, they are the Christian nations, and when we say the Christian nations we mean the nations in which a vast majority of the people are Christians.

True, China had a certain civilization when the rest

of the world was overrun with barbarians, but China's progress stopped centuries ago and the wheels will never turn again until that nation has been Christianized. Today in China woman is a chattel, in Turkey she is a slave and so it is in all the nations where Christianity does not predominate. If Christianity had done nothing more than give to woman her rightful place as the helpmate of man its existence would have been justified.

What have the infidels to offer in exchange for the beautiful faith of the Christian? Knowledge? Emancipation? Is it emancipation to convince the mother that she will never see her child again, that there is no place of many mansions where the loved one is waiting for her? Is the knowledge that gives death its greatest sting, the grave its most overwhelming victory, worth having? Can a single instance in modern history be cited where a good Christian was not a good citizen?

There is one verse in the bible which is worth all the infidelity that has ever emanated from the brain of man. Inspired or uninspired it has given comfort to more thousands than can ever be numbered and it will be giving them comfort when the unbeliever has gone with terror to his welcoming grave. It is:

"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

HELP FOR Y. M. C. A. IS NEEDED.

THE HERALD confesses that it has been unpleasantly surprised by some statements made in a most attractive pamphlet recently issued by the local branch of the Young Men's Christian association. We believe the statements will unpleasantly surprise every citizen who reads them. From the pamphlet the first deduction is that, as regards Y. M. C. A. work, Salt Lake is trailing well toward the rear of the procession.

The figures show that while Salt Lake stands first in territory tributary, sixteenth in bank clearings and seventeenth in population among the cities of the United States, it stands four hundred and twenty-fifth in net equipment for association work. A better understanding of what this means may be gained from a comparison of Salt Lake with other cities.

Colorado Springs, with 21,085 inhabitants, has \$30,000 invested in an association; Boise, Ida., with less than 6,000 population, has an investment of \$25,000 in this work. Now we come to Salt Lake, the richest and most populous city of the three, and we find that Salt Lake has the magnificent sum of \$800 invested for the salvation of its young men. Here is a showing that should make every citizen thoroughly ashamed of himself.

The Y. M. C. A. announcement tells us, further, that it costs \$130 to keep one boy one year in the state reformatory. For the same sum forty boys may be saved from evil associations for a year in a well equipped Young Men's Christian association. Yet we go on sending the boys to the reform school, we continue to talk of the necessity for a juvenile police court, we agitate against the cigarette and other evils, while we permit the only agency that can do away with practically all of them to go unrecognized and unsupported.

Among the citizens of Salt Lake are many men who have dug great wealth out of the hills of Utah. They have builded for themselves magnificent homes; they have erected great business blocks, they have poured their money into the channels of industry where the dividends are constant and sure. By a few penstrokes these men could give to Salt Lake a Young Men's Christian association building and equipment that would place it where it should be. And they would never miss the money.

It should hardly be necessary for The Herald to discuss the advantages of a well equipped Y. M. C. A. The purposes of the organization are so well known that no explanation is needed. Its mission is to save young men and boys; to save them from bad associations, to train them for good citizenship; to make them whole physically and mentally.

The Young Men's Christian association is not a purely religious organization. Indeed, it spends a great deal more money on physical culture and on the teaching of practical, useful knowledge than it spends on bibles and prayer meetings. It is right that this should be so, too. You can attract a boy with a gymnasium when you couldn't stir him a foot with a hymn.

This is a generally recognized principle. Get the youngster into a basket ball game, a handball court, an indoor baseball contest or any of the other features of gymnasium work and you may eventually lead him into the religious side of the Y. M. C. A. Teach a boy that he cannot be an athlete if he smokes cigarettes or if he keeps late hours, and you have started that boy on the road to good citizenship. The surest way to teach is by example and the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium furnishes the example.

Citizens generally are not aware of the fact that there isn't a first-class gymnasium in the city of Salt Lake for boys and young men of moderate means. The Y. M. C. A. is the place for such a gymnasium, but it cannot be installed without money and plenty of it. The Salt Lake branch needs \$75,000 at once to build and equip a suitable structure. At least a dozen residents enjoy annual incomes amounting to more than that sum.

There are many others in comfortable circumstances who will be glad to help the good work, or who should be glad. An eastern philanthropist, Mr. Peabody, has agreed to give a liberal proportion of the amount desired if Salt Laker will raise the balance. If it is not raised, and that very shortly, the failure will be an everlasting shame to the people of this city.

AN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY.

THE TEACHERS of the public schools, the university and the Ladies' Literary club have arranged for a series of lectures and dramatic readings by Professor S. H. Clark of the University of Chicago, to be given in Barrett hall afternoons and evenings, March 25, 26 and 27.

Professor Clark is a great instructor as well as a great interpreter of literature. His textbooks are authority and he himself is recognized as probably the best dramatic reader in this country. The series of lectures will not only be an artistic treat to all lovers of fine literature, but for teachers, students and professional people generally they will offer an exceptional opportunity for study and instruction in the best methods of intelligent interpretation.

The profits, if any, on the course will be given to the model corridor fund for the public schools, and The Herald hopes the ladies will realize a handsome sum for this purpose.

Consul Sawyer, who resigned his post at Guayaquil because he was afraid of yellow fever, may never have that disease, but he certainly has what is aptly known as a "yellow streak" somewhere in his complexion or he would not have resigned.

It is good to know that the pay of the hardworking clerk in a number of the postoffices in this section is to be raised. At the same time it is a regrettable fact that the railway mail clerks are not included in the increase.

The news that work is to be rushed on Salt Lake's new federal building will be gratifying to nearly all citizens. The structure should be hurried to completion as rapidly as possible.

At least one well known citizen of Salt Lake who is now absent from his accustomed haunts will probably remain away until after the grand jury concludes its investigations.

The courts of Kentucky have decided that Governor Beekham is eligible to succeed himself, but the friends of the other candidates have not yet been heard from.

Most of us will heartily concur in Senator Allison's torrid criticism of Speaker Hull and his methods. There is mighty little kernel in that Hull.

Governor Wells can make himself mighty popular with the physicians and surgeons of the state by using his veto ax on that osteopath bill.

For the first time in some years the United States senate has its full quota of members.

May be the special grand jury will tan the Tanner.



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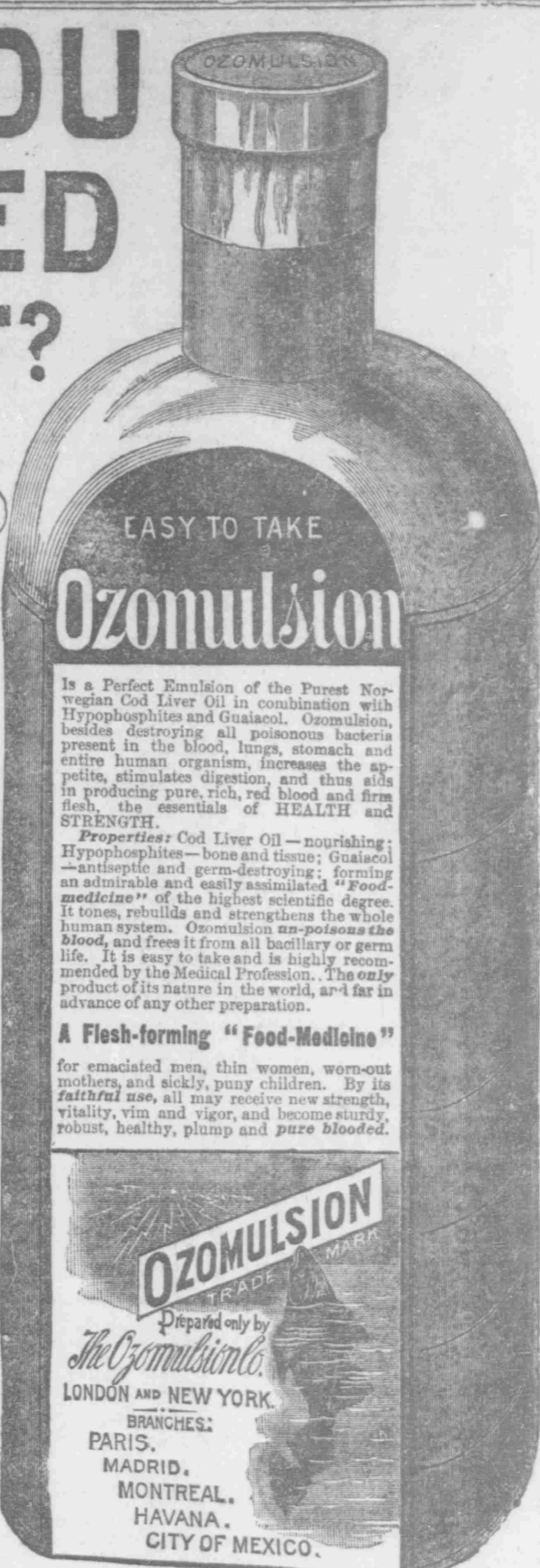
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\$60	Persian Rug, 10x5-4, now	\$35	\$200	Persian Silk Rug, 6-6x3-11, now	\$90
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